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KNUCKLES: THE RETURN
PART 3 OF 4

#11

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Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles the Echidna, guardian of Angel Island, defends his friends and homeland from the forces of evil!

ECHOES of the PAST

PART THREE

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DR. FINITEVUS
EVIL SCIENTIST

SLAM

I KNOW YOU'RE BEHIND ALL THIS!

HOW DID YOU ACTIVATE THOSE CHAINS? WHY IS YOUR LAB IN A BUNCH OF RUINS THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST?

I WANT ANSWERS!

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND

AND YET YOU ASK USELESS QUESTIONS.

HOW COULD I HAVE ATTACKED ANGEL ISLAND WHILE YOU WERE THROWING ME INTO WALLS?

MY CHOICE IN LOCATIONS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, AND I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE INCLINATION TO FILL IN THE GAPS OF YOUR LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP INDOCTRINATION.

MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO
CHAOTIX STRONG-MAN

EASY, KNUX.

THE *REAL* QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW ARE, WHO DID THIS, AND HOW DO WE RESCUE YOUR PRECIOUS ISLAND?

BECAUSE I NEED THE MASTER EMERALD TO FURTHER MY RESEARCH. IT IS AT RISK NOW, AND SO I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED.

AND WE SHOULD BELIEVE YOU CARE-- WHY?

JULIE-SU
KNUCKLES' PARTNER

I'VE GOT A TEAM WATCHING THE MASTER EMERALD. IT'S SAFE-- ESPECIALLY FROM *YOU.*

FWASH

HEY! THAT'S DR. FINITEVUS!

HAHAHA! SAFE INDEED!

DUDE! WE JUST GOT AMBUSHED AND NOW THE ISLAND'S HOOKED LIKE A TROUT!

IS THERE A REASON WE'RE NOT POUNDING THIS GUY INTO SALSA?

WE'RE STILL FIGURING THAT OUT.

VECTOR THE CROCODILE CHAOTIX DE FACTO LEADER

OKAY. I SAID WE GOT JUMPED BY A BUNCH OF ROBOTS, RIGHT?

RAY THE FLYING SQUIRREL CHAOTIX JUNIOR MEMBER

HEY, DO THEY KNOW YOU LEFT DOWNUNDA AS A KID?

RAY! IXNAY ON MY ISTORY-HAY!

DID YOUR ROBOTS HAPPEN TO LOOK LIKE DINGOES WITH WINGS?

YEAH. WHY?

IT APPEARS WE'RE COMRADES FOR THE DURATION.

BECAUSE I THINK THEY FOLLOWED YOU HERE.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

HERE THEY COME, CHAOTIX.

GET READY!

HANG ON! WE'RE ON IT!

WALT WALLABEE

BARBY KOALA

HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT, THESE THINGS.

WOMBAT STU

DOESN'T MAKE 'EM ANY LESS FUN!

MIND IF I TAKE YOUR SHARE, MATE?

ALL YOURS, DUDE.

GURU EMU

THRASH THE TASMANIAN DEVIL

WOW. NICE ENTRANCE, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA AND THE CHAOTIX.

REALLY? I THOUGHT I HAD YOU PEGGED!

WALT WALLABEE OF THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS! WE'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, MATE.

ABOUT *HIM*, MAYBE.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE COMING BACK, VECTOR.

NOT REALLY MY CHOICE, BARBY.

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF *ECHIDNAS* ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I'M FEELIN' SOME SERIOUSLY HARSH VIBES HERE, DUDES.

AGREED. LET'S TAKE COVER AND GET EVERYONE ACQUAINTED.

GOOD IDEA.

SOON...

...SO CHARMY AND SAFFRON TOOK TIME TO LOOK FOR THEIR PEOPLE. OUR INVESTIGATION LED US HERE, AND VECTOR AND RAY JOINED US VIA WARP RING AFTER THE ROBOT ATTACK.

HAHA! WOW! ALL THE ENERJAK BUSINESS *AND* TAKING DOWN EGGMAN!

IT MAKES OUR FIGHT LOOK LIKE NOTHING

LOOKS LIKE I CAME HOME AT THE WRONG TIME.

COME ON, NOW. WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS.

TOTALLY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TEAM'S MAJORLY SUFFERING. THE DARK EGG LEGION IS THROWING OFF THE HARMONY OF THE WHOLE LAND.

DARK EGG LEGION?

HERE?

SURE, A WHOLE PLATYPUS ARMY.

WHAT?

WALT, THE LEGION IS EXCLUSIVELY ECHIDNAS AND BASED IN NEW MEGAOPOLIS.

WE'LL START AT THE BEGINNING, DUDE.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, ONE OF OUR MATES GOT BRAINWASHED INTO INCITING RIOTS ALL OVER DOWNUNDA. SONIC HELPED US GET HIM BACK, BUT...

...MONTHS BACK, DR. ROBOTNIK MADE ANOTHER BIG PUSH TO CONTROL THE REGION.

BILL JOINED HIS CAUSE *AGAIN*...

...BUT OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.

THE PLATYPUSES RALLIED UNDER HIM AND ALL RECEIVED CYBERNETIC UPGRADES.

BILL'S BEEN LEADING THEM-- *POORLY*-- EVER SINCE.

I GOT WORD OF ALL THIS AND TOOK LEAVE FROM KNOTHOLE'S SECRET SERVICE. THAT WAS BEFORE ROBOTNIK BURNED KNOTHOLE TO THE GROUND.

SORRY I WASN'T THERE, MATE.

AND THEN THRASH FILLED IN THE VACANCY IN OUR GROUP A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

Eh, ME OWN QUEST WAS TURNIN' UP BUNKUS, SO I FIGURED I'D BUST A FEW HEADS FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE LEGION, THEY JUST CHAINED *MY* ISLAND DOWN AND DOUBLED OUR NUMBERS.

THAT'S THE WAY TO BE! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!

I FIGURE WE'LL TACKLE BOTH PROBLEMS AT ONCE.

ONE TEAM WILL TAKE OUT THOSE CHAINS, WHILE THE OTHER TEAM WILL TAKE DOWN *THE ENEMY*.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. DO YOU WANT TO STICK WITH OUR CURRENT TEAMS, OR DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND?

SOMETHING ELSE.

STEP OUT WITH ME FOR A SEC AND I'LL EXPLAIN.

TELL ME SOMETHING, KNUX.

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST YOUR MAN FINITEVUSZ

I DON'T.

I GLOSSED OVER SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT *HE'S* RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH.

HE'S ONLY WITH US OUT OF NECESSITY RIGHT NOW.

GOOD.

"GOOD"?

I WAS AFRAID I WAS LAYING BAD NEWS AT YOUR FEET, MATE.

WE'VE SEEN HIM WORKING WITH THE LEGION FOR A FEW DAYS NOW. I'M WILLING TO BET HE'S GETTING READY TO DOUBLE-CROSS YOU.

I KNEW IT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED WHEN I--!

SIMMER DOWN, MATE. THE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND. I PLANNED FOR THIS.

YOU TAKE YOUR BLOKES UP TO THE RIM AND GET YOUR HOME BACK ON COURSE.

WE'LL TAKE FINITEVUS WITH US, BUT HE WON'T BE COMING BACK. NOT TO STEAL YOUR THUNDER, OF COURSE...

NO, IT'S OKAY. MAYBE IT'S BETTER OUT OF MY HANDS. I LIKE THAT PLAN.

I DO NOT.

MY NONVIOLENT WAYS ASIDE, GANGING UP ON SOMEONE IS BAD KARMA, MAN.

SHA.

THEN YOU GO WITH THE CHAOTIX AND HELP THEM FREE THEIR HOME. WILL THAT WORK FOR YOU, GURU?

FINITEVUS, YOU'RE WITH THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS. MEET UP OUTSIDE.

GURU WILL GO WITH THE THREE OF US WHEN WE ATTACK THE CRATER'S RIM.

YOU'RE LEAVING OUT TWO PEOPLE, *HON.*

NO, I'M NOT. YOU'RE TAKING RAY AND GOING HOME.

WHAT?!

I NEED YOU TO WATCH OUR BACKS, AND RAY CAN HELP.

ALL THE WAY UP ON ANGEL ISLAND, huh? I'M NOT A SNIPER, KNUCKLES.

NO, YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST FIGHTERS I'VE EVER FACED AND THE BEST CANDIDATE TO WATCH THE MASTER EMERALD.

FLATTERER.

ALRIGHT. I'LL KEEP THE ISLAND SAFE.

SINCE WHEN WAS "YOU CAN KICK MY BUTT" A ROMANTIC LINE?

DUDE, I STILL THINK HE'S TRIPPIN' RINGS TO BE DATING HER.

BYE, MIGHTY! SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK

THE GREAT CRATER--RIM

HERE'S ONE OF THE LAUNCHERS...

...AND THEY USE WARP RING TECH TO COVER THE DISTANCE TO ANGEL ISLAND.

FINITEVUS *WAS* BEHIND THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.

PRETTY COOL WAY OF GETTING AROUND THE TENSION ISSUE.

VEC, DON'T COMPLIMENT THAT GUY'S...

GET DOWN!

GET DOWN TO WHERE, MAN?

THE GREAT CRATER--BASIN

I MUST ADMIT-- BEING PART OF A STRIKE TEAM IS AN AMUSING NOVELTY.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT, CHUM. YOU AIN'T GOT MUCH LEFT TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

KEEP THIS PROFESSIONAL, THRASH.

QUICK, QUIET, AND WE FIND BILL.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM HIM? HIS "BREED" IS USELESS NEXT TO THE REST OF THE MONGRELS MY KIND PERFECTED.

YOU-- SHUT-- YOUR-- FILTHY--

--FACE!

SOK

WALT!

STU, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN, FAST!

RIGHT!

EASY THERE, BOY. HEEL. STAY.

CHUD

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER FILTHY ECHIDNA!

WHUD

AND YOU'RE JUST THE REMAINDER OF A FAILED EXPERIMENT.

GAK!

NEVER SEND A THUG TO DO A MERCENARY'S JOB.

ARGH!

ZOW

VECTOR! MIGHTY'S OUT! GRAB HIM WHILE I GO FOR THE LAUNCHER!

SORRY KNUCKLES!

BLAST IT! GURU! GO AFTER MIGHTY WHILE I GET VECTOR!

GURU!

SORRY, MAN. BUT THE ONLY WAY I COULD AVOID VIOLENCE WAS TO SURRENDER.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

VIOLENCE IS RARELY THE ANSWER. YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE DREAMTIME. EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED. WE WE ARE MEANT TO BE SOMEWHERE.

FINE! MORE FOR ME!

BRING IT ON YOU--!

ZOW ZOW ZOW

RRRGH!

g... guru...

YOU SHOULD'VE GONE WITH THE FLOW, MAN.

ungh...

mighty? vector?

AND THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS. WONDERFUL.

AT LAST! FOR A MOMENT, I FEARED THE LEGION HAD FINISHED YOU OFF.

NO SUCH LUCK.

OF COURSE. YOU WOULDN'T BE A GUARDIAN IF YOU DIDN'T STUBBORNLY DELAY THE INEVITABLE!

The Chaotix and Downunda Freedom Fighters – down and out?!

How can they escape from the den of the enemy?

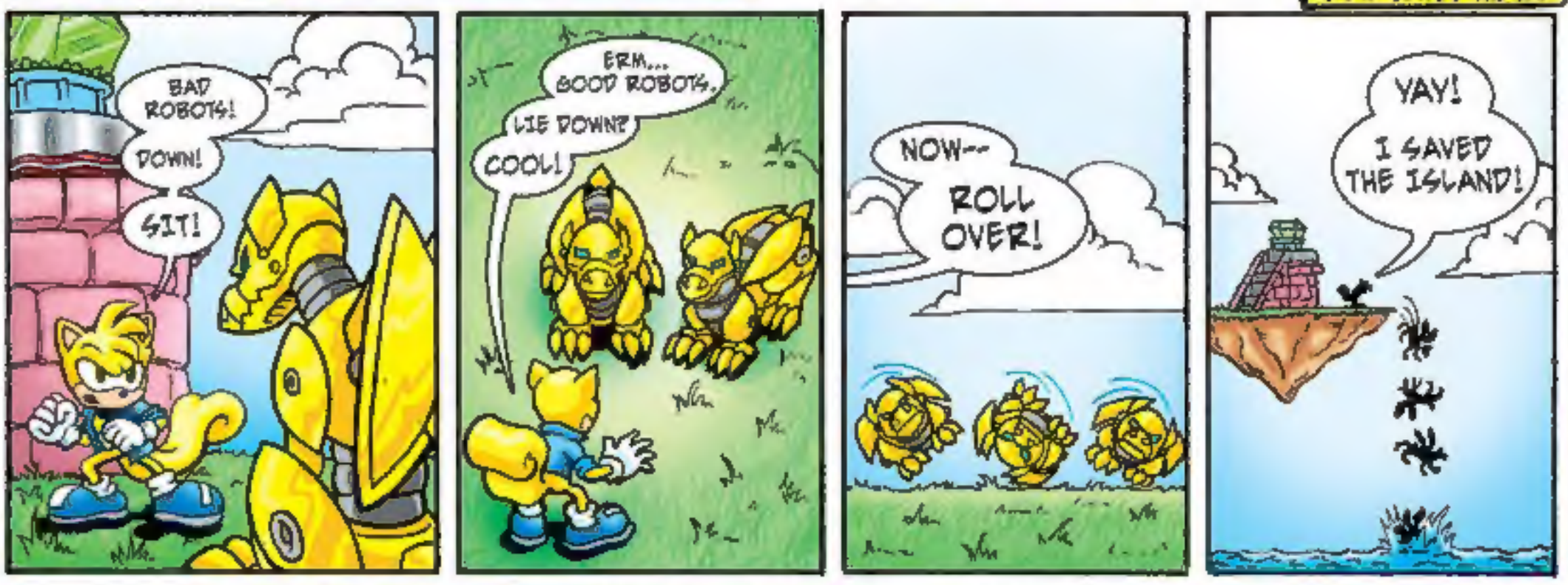
And what about Angel Island?

Don't miss the exciting conclusion in

SONIC UNIVERSE #12!

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ OFF-PANEL

OFF PANEL — ECHOES of the PAST "RAY SAVES THE DAY"



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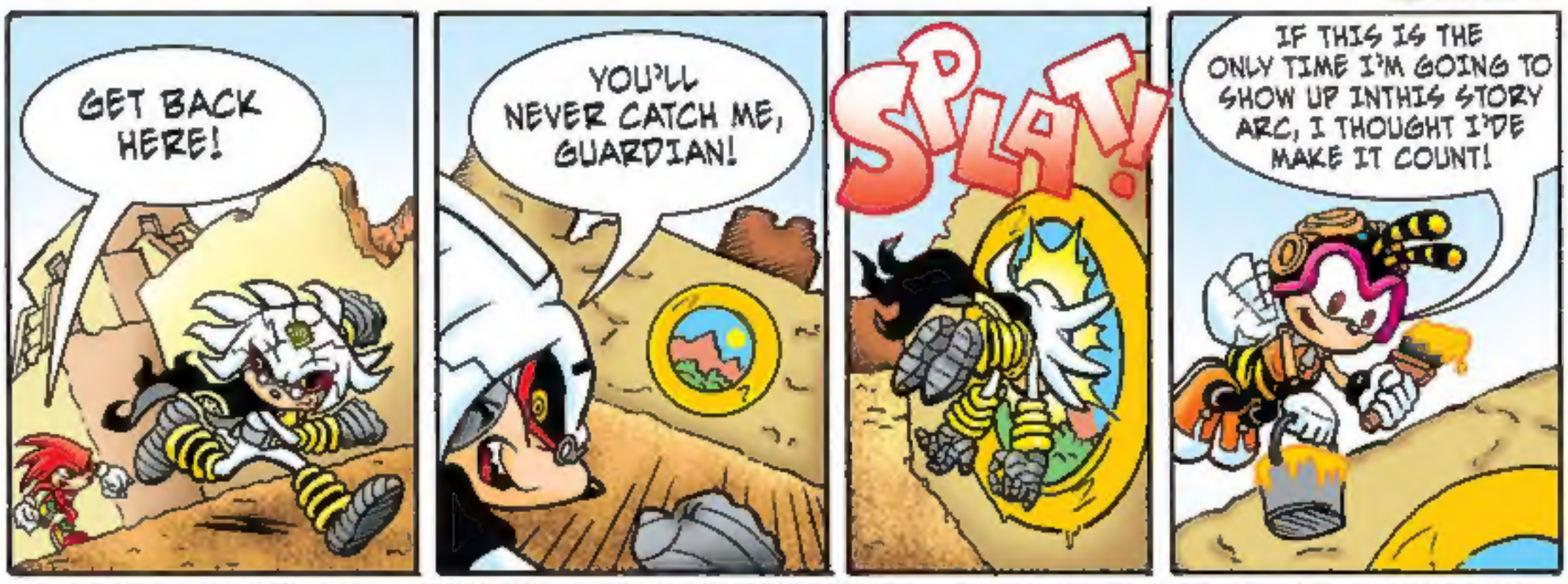
OFF PANEL — ECHOES of the PAST "GOTCHA"


GET BACK HERE!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME, GUARDIAN!
SPLAT!
IF THIS IS THE ONLY TIME I'M GOING TO SHOW UP INTHIS STORY ARC, I THOUGHT I'DE MAKE IT COUNT!

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI

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